

## SENATE FISH &amp; GAME COMMITTEE

WE STRONGLY SUPPORT SENATE BILL 344. WE HAVE A SHEEP & CATTLE RANCH IN GARFIELD & McCONE COUNTIES. ON JAN. 12, 2006 A BAND OF OUR SHEEP WAS ATTACKED BY A WOLF, 61 HEAD OF THEM WERE RIPPED UP AND WOUNDED, WITH 21 OF THEM KILLED. MANY OF THE BAND OF 700 ABORTED LAMBS FROM THE STRESS AND TRAUMA, A LARGE FINANCIAL LOSS TO OUR RANCH.

THIS WOLF WAS KILLED BY WILD LIFE SERVICES NEAR THE LOCATION OF THE ATTACK. MONTANA FISH & GAME SENT THE CARCASS FOR DNA TESTING. THE RESULT WAS A PURE NORTH AMERICAN WOLF, BUT BECAUSE OF A MIXTURE OF 3 GENE POOLS, ALASKA, GREAT LAKES AND LOWER 48 STATES, THEY DEDUCTED, IT HAD TO BE BRED IN CAPTIVITY. BECAUSE THERE WASN'T ANY TATOO IN THE EAR, THERE WAS NO ONE TO PLACE LIABILITY ON FOR COMPENSATION.

IF THIS LEGISLATION IS PASSED, ENACTED AND ENFORCED, I HOPE IT MIGHT SPARE OTHER MONTANA RANCHERS FROM THIS DEVASTATING PREDATION ON THEIR LIVESTOCK.

James Whiteside  
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